

VERMONT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
Montpelier Room, Capitol Plaza Conference Center, 100 State Street, Montpelier
August 17, 2010

The State Board and Department of Education provide leadership, support and oversight to ensure that the Vermont public education system enables each student to be successful.

Approved MINUTES

Present: Board: Chair Fayneese Miller; Kathy Larsen, Vice-chair; Ruth Stokes, Vice -chair; Elizabeth Strano; Stephan Morse; John Hall; Don Collins; Judy Livingston

DOE: Commissioner Vilaseca; Deputy Commissioner Rae Ann Knopf; Mark Oettinger; Jill Remick; Gail Taylor; Karin Edwards; Susan Marks; Pat Fitzsimmons; Carol King

Others: Rep. Howard Crawford; David Ruff; Susan Ohanian; Martha Allen, VT-NEA; Susan Yuan; Sherri Brunelle; Retta Dunlap; Dawn Atwood; Ken Page, VPA; John Nelson, VSBA; Katie Warmington, ACT; Jeff Francis, VSA; David Cyprian, VSA/VSBA/VPA; Sherry Gile, VT-NEA; Bill Mathis; Ilene Levitt; Karen Topper, Green Mountain Self- Advocates; Christine Kilpatrick; Vt. Family Network; Andrew West, John Poljacik, Peggy McKinley, Mary Sue Crowley, Carl Groppe, Norm Andrews, David Eddy, WNWSU, Bethel; Debra Leahy, Bethel; Bruce Hyde, Granville; Tim Pratt, Rochester; Ray Rice, Rochester; AJ Rubin, Stockbridge

Preliminaries

Item A: Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance

Fayneese Miller, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:16 a.m. She led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Item B: Roll Call and Introductions

Chair, Board members, introduced themselves, as did others in attendance.

Item C: Announcements, Board Member Updates

The Board started the day by meeting with representatives from the Vermont Business Roundtable.

Miller announced that she and others would be attending a Common Core Standards Policy Roundtable discussion, sponsored by the Council of State Governments, on Thursday (August 19). She also noted the October 14-16 NASBE (National Association of State Boards of Education) annual conference in Utah.

Stephan Morse has been chairing the Redistricting Commission. The Commission met twice in June. Morse reported that commission members heard that they should put themselves on hold to allow the 2010 legislation (Act 153) to have time to work. The Board discussed the future of redistricting and what the impact of the 2010 legislation has been to this point, as well as the role the Board can play in continuing to promote redistricting.

Morse reported that he attended the NASBE new Board member conference in July in Arlington, VA.

Ruth Stokes represented the Board at a recognition and dinner for the Presidential Award in Science and Mathematics nominee, Patricia Kelley.

Kathy Larsen attended the Vermont Principals Association conference and was impressed by the keynote speaker, Tony Wagner, who spoke of the importance of effective principal leadership in successful schools.

Item D: Public to be Heard

Chair Miller explained that the Restraint and Seclusion issue will be discussed when that item is on the agenda, which is at 1 p.m.

Susan Ohanian spoke to the Board about the Common Core and said that she had not heard about the Common Core being considered by the Board. She expressed concern that there had not been adequate public discussion. Miller noted that the Board has held meetings over the past several months at which this was addressed and the department has alerted districts to this over the past several months.

Item E: Continue Annual Board Evaluation Discussion from June (Board Members, David Ruff)

Motion: At 10:50 a.m., Larsen moved, seconded by Stokes, that the Board enter into Executive Session to discuss its annual evaluation. Facilitator David Ruff was asked to remain with the board. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 12:10 p.m. No action was taken.

The Board recessed for lunch and reconvened at 12:51 p.m.

Item F: Commissioner's Update

Armando Vilaseca, Commissioner, declined to do an update since the topics will be discussed throughout the meeting as other agenda items.

Action Items

Item G: Consent Agenda

1. Minutes of June 14-15, 2010 SBE Meeting
2. Independent School Approval (Pat Pallas Gray, Michael Mulcahy)

Approved Independent School Closings:

Bennington Regional Program, Bennington, VT
Northern VT Regional Program, St. Albans, VT
St. Joseph Elementary School, Burlington, VT

Amendment to General Independent School Approval:

The Stevens School, Peacham, VT (adding grade 2)

Motion: Stephan Morse moved, Don Collins seconded, that the Board approve the Consent Agenda, with comment. The motion was approved unanimously.

Kathy Larsen noted that she would point out one minor change in the minutes to Carol King at the end of the meeting.

Item H: 2010-2015 Strategic Plan Adoption (Board members, Armando Vilaseca, Rae Ann Knopf)

Knopf reviewed the process for developing the plan and the need for the Department to now begin the development of an implementation plan.

Motion: Don Collins moved, seconded by Stephan Morse, that the State Board of Education vote to approve the 2010-2014 Strategic Plan as proposed. The Board then discussed some of the public comments received thus far and whether or not the plan adequately represented what they wanted to focus on. The motion passed unanimously (7-0).

The plan will be available on the Department's Web site:

<http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/mainboard.html> . Knopf understood that the DOE had 90 days to return to the Board with an implementation plan.

Item I: Common Core Standards Adoption (Armando Vilaseca, Rae Ann Knopf, Gail Taylor)

The Common Core State Standards work is closely aligned to the Strategic Plan. The DOE has created an implementation plan specific to the Common Core. Taylor updated the Board on the history of Vermont's involvement with the Common Core, starting with the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and including Vermont's participation in the Smarter Balance Assessment Consortium (SBAC). Committees made up of Vermont educators and educational leaders will be meeting (September 1) informing the work and there will be informational meetings across the state to spread awareness later in the fall. Vilaseca also gave some background information on the Common Core. Taylor answered questions by the Board on comparing the Common Core to the current *Vermont Framework*, and how the DOE will share this information with the field. She explained the benefits of participation in the SBAC and the opportunity and need to provide good resources and professional development to the field. She clarified that the Common Core is not an assessment framework, which will need to be created separately. The expected full year for implementation would be in the 2014-2015 school year.

Motion: Stephan Morse moved, seconded by John Hall, that the State Board vote to adopt the Common Core State Standards in Mathematics and English Language Arts as necessary to transition to the comprehensive assessment of those standards in SY 2014-2015.

John Nelson of the Vermont School Boards Association asked what future commitments this action will require. Bill Mathis questioned the cost of the implementation. Vilaseca responded that the grant the SBAC consortium applied for would cover the development of the assessment. Taylor added that the SARA federal funds that currently fund assessment would continue to be allocated.

The motion passed unanimously (7-0).

Item J: Initiation of the Rulemaking Process: Rule 4500 (Restraint & Seclusion) (Armando Vilaseca, Susan Marks)

There have been guidelines for restraint and seclusion but there is the need for consistent, statewide rules. Susan Marks spoke to the Board about the process thus far, including an initial move in June to implement emergency rules with the goal of regular rulemaking. The desire is to get the rules in place as soon as possible, likely around the first of the year, with guidelines going to school districts in the interim. The group discussed some of the public input heard thus far. The rules will be posted on the DOE Web site, go to ICAR (Interagency Committee on Administrative Rules) and then be filed with Secretary of State. A public comment period will be held, with the intent to bring the proposed rules back to the Board in January and a vote on the final rules in February. The DOE has a team of staff who already does training on this as part of their regular work and can provide a list of approved trainings (BEST and Act 230 funds).

Members of the public spoke on the proposed rules. Susan Yuan commended the Board for initiating this process because there are times when, for a student's own safety or the safety of others, they must be restrained. Sherry Brunelle, on behalf of the Vermont Family Network, expressed her support for the Department's decision to initiate the rulemaking process.

Motion: Kathy Larsen moved, seconded by Don Collins, that the State Board of Education vote to initiate rulemaking regarding the use of restraint and seclusion in schools. The motion was approved, 6-1 (Hall).

Discussion Items

Item K: Update on Legislative Action

[Act 146 of 2010](#): Section E1-2 (Talbott)

Chief Financial Officer and Deputy Commissioner Bill Talbott explained the Budget Reduction Targets legislation and the timeline for the DOE releasing these targets. He explained the formula used, based on the legislation, to develop the targets. Collins had some questions about how targets for schools that had been identified as persistently low achieving schools were factored and how they were developed for some union high schools were calculated. Talbott also explained the 19 million dollar impact of the national "Education Jobs Fund" bill, which is to be distributed either through Title 1 funding or through the standard education funding formula.

[Act 153 of 2010](#):

Sections 1-8: Regional Education District (RED) Template (Mark Oettinger)

Sections 9-15: Virtual Consolidation (Bill Talbott)

Sections 16-19: Minimum/Optimal Class Sizes (Mark Oettinger)

General Counsel Mark Oettinger gave the Board an overview of the current draft of the RED Template and potential technical assistance needed by districts to implement a RED. Talbott addressed the financial implications of the virtual consolidation. The Board also discussed the August 31 requirement to create model policies on optimal class size.

Item M: Report on Bethel/Rochester Needs Assessment (Armando Vilaseca, Mark Oettinger, John Poljacik, Acting Superintendent, Windsor Northwest SU
Carl Groppe, Peggy McKinley, Andy West, David Eddy, Norm Andrews, Debra Leahy, Bruce Hyde, MarySue Crowley, Tim Pratt, AJ Rubin, Ray Rice

Poljacik explained to the Board the work undertaken on the WNESU Needs Assessment. The two towns need to explain their need to their local communities. They have considered the implication of consolidating into another SU, finances, school choice and governance.

Vilaseca expressed his concerns about the offerings for students, especially those in grades 9-12. Two community members also expressed their desire for change. The Board agreed and the representatives agreed to make a final proposal to the State Board by January 2011.

Members Morse and Collins left the meeting.

Item L: FY 2012 Budget Building and Legislative Agenda Development Process (Board members, Armando Vilaseca, Bill Talbott, Rae Ann Knopf, Mark Oettinger)
The outgoing Administration has formed a transition team with some targets for agencies but nothing is yet finalized. Oettinger noted that his team has been meeting with directors to generate legislative issues to be addressed this session and possible rules changes, which would be vetted by the Commissioner and presented to the Board.

Item N: Future Agendas (Board members, Armando Vilaseca, Carol King)
Board members reviewed items for upcoming meetings and discussed further work by the Redistricting Commission.

Item O: Wrap Up and Adjourn

Motion: John Hall moved, seconded by Kathy Larsen, to adjourn the August 17, 2010 meeting of the State Board of Education. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes recorded by Jill Remick
Minutes prepared by Carol King